



SDHC volunteers Sally Winthers and John Kerr setting up new show. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

Center celebrates LGBTQ progress

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center will celebrate its new exhibit "A Century of Progress: 100 years of LGBTQ History in Saugatuck-Douglas" opening Labor Day weekend and all are welcome to participate.

There will be a ticketed preview at the Center's Old School House Back in Time Garden Friday, Sept. 3, from 6 p.m. and free public opening the next day. It will remain on view Fridays through Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. throughout September.

Covering more than 100 years of history, the exhibit shares stories of lakeshore people living in the margins in a timeline format with local, state and national LGBTQ developments included for context.

Interpretive panels identify factors that have contributed to the diverse and inclusive nature of Saugatuck and Douglas alongside historical artwork and artifacts

from SDHC collections.

The exhibit showcases not only progress made by the LGBTQ community but challenges it has faced and setbacks it has endured.

Coinciding with the exhibit will be a related art exhibition "History Book: LGBTQ Portraits" on the second floor of the Old School House. This show features more than two dozen stylized portraits of LGBTQ pioneers — some local — by acclaimed Chicago artist and designer David Lee Csicsko.

Biographical and historical information for the exhibit was developed by LGBTQ historian and author Owen Keehnen. Both he and Csicsko and Keehnen are inductees of Chicago's LGBT Hall of Fame.

Tickets are available for Friday night's open-air preview party (\$50) and exclusive VIP champagne reception (\$75), including beverages, appetizers and

a D.J. In addition, a separate red carpet VIP champagne reception attended by Csicsko and Keehnen will be held at the Pride Celebration Garden across the street from 5 to 6 p.m.

Tickets for both events are available at MySDHistory.org or by phone at (269) 857-5751.

This activity is supported by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural

Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts. The "Century of Progress" exhibit is also supported with a grant from Michigan Humanities and the National Endowment for

the Humanities. West Shore AWARE has also supported this project with grant funding in 2020.

For more information, visit MySDHistory.org.

